

2000
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5021 Guadalupe Trail NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
June 6, 2000

Mr. Steve ~~Z~~appe
NM Environment Dept.
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials
2044A Galisyeo St.
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Dear Mr. Zappe,

It is my understanding that your agency, NM Environment Department, NMED, is the regulator charged with ensuring that the Department of Energy, DOE, follows the rules. Now, just six months after the public was part of a process that produced the permit defining the rules for WIPP, the NMED has given in to the DOE by allowing it to change those rules and put additional waste into Panel 1 without public input. This is unacceptable! Will all changes soon be called Class 1 modifications so as to bypass public hearings?

I also oppose, under Class 11 modifications, reducing sampling for headspace gas because of the lack of information in the records on this hazardous part of the waste. And I oppose changes in determining how many waste containers must be opened for visual examination because of the attempt on the part of DOE to reduce the types of waste to 3 main categories.

I urge you to hold fast to the permit conditions you required in November, 1999.

Sincerely,
Dorelen Bunting
Dorelen Bunting

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